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EXAMINER

DELGADO, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 11/21/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/521,282

Applicant(s)

BELISSENT ET AL.

Examiner

Michael S. A. Delgado

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,6,7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claim 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,366,950 by Scheussler et al.

In claim 1, Scheussler teaches about a method for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system, comprising (Fig 7):

defining a virtual domain node corresponding to a real domain name server in a hierarchically organized directory (Col 13, lines 35-47), (Col 9, lines 25-35); and

associating a plurality of virtual domain attributes to the virtual domain node (Col 9, lines 45-50).

For claim 2, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of virtual domain attributes include a designated virtual domain administrator, a

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designated virtual domain postmaster, a state of the virtual domain, and a set of allowed services for the virtual domain (Col 9, lines 37-51).

In claim 3, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 2, wherein the state of the virtual domain node is selected from the list comprising: active, inactive (or suspended), and deleted (Col 2, lines 35-45).

For claim 4, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 3, wherein the hierarchically organized directory is a tree based hierarchy (Col 9, lines 45-50).

In claim 5, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 4, wherein the tree based hierarchy is a standard based directory information tree (DIT) that includes a plurality of directory entries each of which is associated with a higher level (parent) directory entry (Col 9, lines 45-50).

For claim 6, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 5, wherein the directory takes the form of a segmented name space (Col 6, lines 25-30).

In claim 7, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 6, wherein the segmented name space includes a segmented name associated with a user that is segmented in such a way that the user is uniquely identified by a unique user name at a first hierarchical level and an associated domain name at a higher hierarchical level (Col 6, lines 25-30).

For claim 8, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 7, wherein during a user name search operation, the user name is initially resolved at the higher hierarchical level and subsequently at the first hierarchical level such that in a multi-domain environment the search operation is performed as if the user name was part of a flat name space (Col 13, lines 20-45).

In claim 9, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 8 further comprising:

defining a routing table based upon the segmented name space, wherein the routing table is used by a transfer agent to direct an appropriately addressed email message to a receiving user in the virtual domain (Col 13, lines 35-45).

For claim 10, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 9, wherein the segmented name space is based upon the most direct path from the user name to the highest connected hierarchical level in the directory (Col 9, lines 45-50).

In claim 11, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic messaging system is an email messaging system (Col 5, lines 60-65).

For claim 12, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic messaging system is a voicemail messaging system (Col 13, lines 54-60).

In claim 13, Scheussler teaches about a method as recited in claim 10, wherein the standard based directory is an LDAP based directory (Col 9, lines 28-35).

For claim 14, Scheussler teaches about a computer-readable medium containing programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system, the computer-readable medium comprising computer program code devices configured to cause a computer to execute the operations of (Fig 7):

defining a virtual domain node corresponding to a real (non-virtual) domain in a hierarchically organized directory (Col 13, lines 35-47), (Col 9, lines 25-35); and

associating a plurality of virtual domain attributes to the virtual domain node (Col 9, lines 45-50).

In claim 15, Scheussler teaches about a computer-readable medium containing programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system as

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recited in claim 10, wherein the plurality of virtual domain attributes include a designated virtual domain administrator, a designated virtual domain postmaster, a state of the virtual domain, and a set of allowed services for the virtual domain and wherein the state of the virtual domain node is selected from the list comprising: active, inactive (or suspended), and deleted (Col 9, lines 37-51), (Col 2, lines 35-45).

For claim 16, Scheussler teaches about a computer-readable medium containing programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 15, the computer-readable medium further comprising computer program code devices configured to cause a computer to execute the operations of (Fig 7):  
defining a routing table based upon the segmented name space, wherein the routing table is used by a transfer agent to direct an appropriately addressed email message to a receiving user in the virtual domain (Col 13, lines 35-45).

In claim 17, Scheussler teaches about a computer-readable medium containing programming instructions for defining a virtual domain in an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 16, the computer-readable medium further comprising computer program code devices configured to cause a computer to execute the operations of (Fig7, 26):

initially resolving a user name during a user name search operation at the higher hierarchical level and subsequently at the first hierarchical level such that in a multi-domain environment the search operation is performed as if the user name was part of a flat name space (Col 13, lines 35-45).

For claim 18, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system having a main host computer for transferring an incoming message between a sending subscriber and a receiving subscriber having an associated unique user name, comprising (Fig 7):

a messaging server coupled to the host computer arranged to receive the incoming message from the sending subscriber and arranged to forward the message to the receiving subscriber based upon the receiving subscriber's user name (Fig 7, 80);

a hierarchically organized directory coupled to the messaging server arranged to define a virtual domain node corresponding to a real (non-virtual) domain having associated with it a plurality of virtual domain attributes to the virtual domain node (Col 9, lines 45-50).

In claim 19, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 18, wherein the plurality of virtual domain attributes include a designated virtual domain administrator, a designated virtual domain postmaster, a state of the virtual domain, and a set of allowed services for the virtual domain (Col 9, lines 37-51).

For claim 20, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 19, wherein the state of the virtual domain node is selected from the list comprising: active, inactive (or suspended), and deleted (Col 2, lines 35-45).

In claim 21, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 20, wherein the hierarchically organized directory is an LDAP based directory information tree (DIT) that includes a plurality of directory entries each of which is associated with a higher level (parent) directory entry and wherein the directory takes the form of a segmented name space (Col 9, lines 28-35).

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For claim 22, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 21, wherein the user name is segmented in such a way that the user is uniquely identified by a unique userid at a first hierarchical level and an associated domain name at a higher hierarchical level (Col 6, lines 25-30).

In claim 23, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 22, wherein in order for the messaging server to forward the email message to the receiving subscriber, the messaging server executes a user name search operation (Col 8, lines 55-65).

For claim 24, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 23, wherein the user name search operation comprises:

initially resolving the user name at a highest hierarchical level and subsequently at a lowest hierarchical level in such a way that when the name search operation is executed in a multi-domain environment, the search operation is performed as if the user name was part of a flat name space (Col 13, lines 20-47).

In claim 25, Scheussler teaches about an electronic messaging system as recited in claim 24, wherein the messaging server further includes:

a routing table defined by the directory based upon the resolved receiving subscriber's user name that defines a path by which the email message is passed from the sending subscriber to the receiving subscriber (Col 13, lines 35-45); and

a transfer agent arranged to direct the email message from the sending subscriber to the receiving subscriber as defined by the routing table (Fig 7, 26).

### ***Conclusion***



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3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent No. 6,434,600 by Waite et al teaches about a method and system for securely delivering electronic mail to host having dynamic address.

US Patent No. 5,930,474 by Dunwoth et al teaches about an internet organizer for accessing geographically and topically based information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael S. A. Delgado whose telephone number is 703-305-8057. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4.30PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A Wiley can be reached on (703) 308-5221. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7239 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



MD

November 6, 2002



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